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16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
17 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
18 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

19 In re FACEBOOK BIOMETRIC ) Master File No. 3:15-cv-03747-JD  
20 INFORMATION PRIVACY LITIGATION )  
----- )  
21 This Document Relates To: ) PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO  
 ) DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
 ) JUDGMENT  
----- )  
22 ALL ACTIONS. ) DATE: March 2, 2016  
 ) TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
 ) CTRM: 11, 19th Floor  
23 ) JUDGE: Honorable James Donato  
24  
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27  
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SOUGHT TO BE SEALED**

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1 Pursuant to the Court’s December 18, 2015 Order and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(d)  
 2 and 56, Plaintiffs Nimesh Patel, Adam Pezen, and Carlo Licata submit this brief in opposition to  
 3 defendant Facebook, Inc.’s (“Facebook”) converted motion for summary judgment.

4 **I. INTRODUCTION**

5 Plaintiffs bring this class action on behalf of Illinois residents whose faceprints were  
 6 extracted by Facebook in violation of Illinois’s Biometric Information Privacy Act (“BIPA”). In  
 7 moving to dismiss, Facebook asserted that Plaintiffs’ claims were precluded by their purported  
 8 assent to choice-of-law clauses buried in online adhesion contracts. Because this affirmative defense  
 9 raised issues of fact not alleged in Plaintiffs’ complaint, the Court converted Facebook’s motion into  
 10 one for summary judgment.<sup>1</sup> Despite Plaintiffs’ narrowly tailored document requests,  
 11 interrogatories, and notices of deposition, Facebook responded with boilerplate objections,  
 12 piecemeal production, and inadequately prepared deponents. That deficient response only confirms  
 13 Facebook cannot establish Plaintiffs’ assent as a matter of law.<sup>2</sup>

14 To the extent the evidentiary hearing on the issue of assent would involve weighing evidence,  
 15 assessing credibility of live testimony, and resolving disputed issues of fact, that would invade the  
 16 province of the jury. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(d), 56; U.S. Const. Amend. VII; *see also Grajeda v.*  
 17 *Rodgers*, 2015 WL 7350516, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2015) (Donato, J.) (“The court’s function on  
 18 a summary judgment motion is not to make credibility determinations or weigh conflicting evidence  
 19 with respect to a disputed material fact.”). During the February 24 telephone conference, Facebook  
 20 relied on *Murphy v. Schneider Nat’l, Inc.*, 362 F.3d 1133 (9th Cir. 2003), to suggest that a mini-  
 21 bench trial would be appropriate here. But *Murphy* is inapposite because it concerns venue, not

22 <sup>1</sup> *See* Dec. 18 Hearing Tr. at 15 (“if you want to press the ‘California law prevails’ argument, I can  
 23 get you to early summary judgment . . . [if] they’ve got a bunch of facts . . . they will have the  
 24 opportunity to show that at summary judgment.”), 17 (“Why should we not put this on hold and go  
 25 to a contract formation early summary judgment?”), 18 (“And I’m saying, okay, let’s go forward on  
 26 early summary judgment and get that resolved. Then we can see where we are.”), 19 (“So why not  
 27 just do summary judgment . . . I have to have a basis in fact based on material from outside the  
 28 record, which I can only handle, unless you two tell me differently, under Rule 56.”).

22 <sup>2</sup> To be sure, the issue of assent alone will not resolve Facebook’s motion. Even if Plaintiffs had  
 23 assented (they have not), Facebook’s choice-of-law clause would not preclude Plaintiffs’ BIPA  
 24 claims because applying California law would be contrary to the fundamental policy of Illinois, a  
 25 state with a materially greater interest in the biometric privacy rights of millions of Illinois residents  
 26 under an Illinois statute with no California counterpart. Illinois law applies regardless of whether  
 27 Plaintiffs assented to Facebook’s choice-of-law clause.

1 choice of law. *Id.*; *cf. Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162, 1170-71 (9th Cir. 2014) (explaining “a judge  
 2 rather than a jury decides disputed factual questions relevant to jurisdiction and venue”). Unlike  
 3 venue, which does not impinge the merits, questions of fact underlying choice-of-law are reserved  
 4 for the jury. *See Mattel, Inc. v. MGA Entm’t, Inc. & Consol. Actions*, 782 F. Supp. 2d 911, 976-77  
 5 (C.D. Cal. 2010) (as to choice of law, “a genuine issue of material fact . . . is an issue the parties can  
 6 take up with the fact-finder”); *accord Marra v. Bushee*, 447 F.2d 1282, 1285 (2d Cir. 1971) (parties  
 7 are “entitled to the jury’s finding of the facts . . . determinative of the choice of law principles”).<sup>3</sup>

8       Summary judgment should be denied.

9 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

10       Following the Court’s December 18, 2015 Order, the parties engaged in targeted discovery  
 11 concerning whether Plaintiffs assented to Facebook’s terms of use (the “Terms”).<sup>4</sup> This has revealed  
 12 the following relevant facts:

13       **Undisputed Facts.** Both Facebook’s Terms, and the webpage through which new users  
 14 registered for a Facebook account (the “Sign-Up Page”), have changed over time. Plaintiff Adam  
 15 Pezen registered for Facebook on or about [REDACTED]; plaintiff Nimesh Patel registered for  
 16 Facebook on or about [REDACTED]; and plaintiff Carlo Licata registered for Facebook on or  
 17 about [REDACTED].<sup>5</sup> The Terms and Sign-Up Page were different at each of those times.  
 18 Facebook has not produced, and apparently does not maintain, any record concerning whether any  
 19 plaintiff (or other Class member) ever agreed to, or even viewed, read, or was otherwise notified of,  
 20 the Terms, either at the time they registered or any time thereafter. *See infra* §IV.A.1.

21       **Disputed Facts.** Facebook has produced several documents that it contends constitute the  
 22 Sign-Up Pages as they existed on the date each plaintiff registered for Facebook. But as Facebook’s  
 23 30(b)(6) witness admitted, [REDACTED]  
 24 [REDACTED]

25       <sup>3</sup> Because plaintiffs have requested a jury trial on all issues, Plaintiffs object, do not consent to a  
 26 bench trial, and reserve their right to a jury trial on disputed issues of fact. Dkt. No. 40.

27       <sup>4</sup> For the sake of brevity, this brief uses “Terms” to encompass any of Facebook’s purportedly  
 28 binding adhesion contracts – including documents that have sometimes been called “Terms of Use,”  
 other times “Terms of Service,” and today are called a “Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.”

<sup>5</sup> *See* Declaration of Shawn A. Williams (“Williams Decl.”), Exhibit 1 (Pezen); Ex. 2 (Licata); Ex. 3 (Patel).

1 [REDACTED] *See infra*

2 §IV.A.2. Additionally, a Facebook 30(b)(6) witness testified that [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED] There is little or no direct evidence in the record  
 5 concerning what device or internet browser any of the Plaintiffs used to register for Facebook (and  
 6 Facebook produced no Sign-Up Pages for phones, which differ from those for computers, and at  
 7 least one of the Plaintiffs may have signed up by phone). Therefore, the record lacks any accurate  
 8 depiction of the Sign-Up Pages Plaintiffs actually viewed when they registered for Facebook.

9 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

10 Summary judgment is only appropriate “when no genuine and disputed issues of material fact  
 11 remain, and when, viewing the evidence most favorably to the nonmoving party, the movant is  
 12 clearly entitled to prevail as a matter of law.” *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster, Inc.*, 569 F.3d 946,  
 13 950 (9th Cir. 2009). A material issue of fact is a question the jury must answer under the substantive  
 14 law, and dispute is genuine ““if the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for  
 15 the nonmoving party.”” *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 258 (1986).<sup>6</sup> ““Credibility  
 16 determinations, the weighing of the evidence, and the drawing of legitimate inferences from the facts  
 17 are jury functions, not those of a judge.”” *Id.* at 265.

18 Where, as here, “the moving party has the burden of proof at trial, that party must carry its  
 19 initial burden at summary judgment by presenting evidence affirmatively showing, for all essential  
 20 elements of its case, that no reasonable jury could find for the non-moving party.” *Fara Estates*  
 21 *Homeowners Ass’n v. Fara Estates, Ltd.*, 134 F.3d 377, 378 (9th Cir. 1998). If a moving party fails  
 22 to carry its initial burden the nonmoving party has no evidentiary obligation and summary judgment  
 23 must be denied. *See Adickes v. S.H. Kress & Co.*, 398 U.S. 144, 161 (1970) (““No defense to an  
 24 insufficient showing is required.””). Even if the moving party does carry its initial burden, the  
 25 nonmoving party need only “present evidence from which a jury might return a verdict in his favor”  
 26 to defeat summary judgment. *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 257.

27

28 <sup>6</sup> Citations are omitted and emphasis added unless otherwise noted.

1 **IV. FACEBOOK IS NOT ENTITLED TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

2 Facebook premises summary judgment on a purported contract. But “[t]here is no contract  
 3 until there is mutual consent of the parties.” *Norcia v. Samsung Telecomms. Am., LLC*, 2014 U.S.  
 4 Dist. LEXIS 131893, at 12 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 18, 2014) (alteration in original) (Donato, J.) (quoting  
 5 *Deleon v. Verizon Wireless, LLC*, 207 Cal. App. 4th 800, 813 (2012)).<sup>7</sup> “The mutual consent  
 6 necessary to form a contract” is a ““question of fact,”” ““determined under an objective standard  
 7 applied to the outward manifestations or expressions of the parties, *i.e.*, the reasonable meaning of  
 8 their words and acts.”” *Id.* Critically, “contracts cannot be formed on the basis of stealth drafting:  
 9 ‘when the offeree does not know that a proposal has been made to him this objective standard does  
 10 not apply. Hence, an offeree, regardless of apparent manifestation of his consent, is not bound by  
 11 inconspicuous contractual provisions of which he was unaware, contained in a document whose  
 12 contractual nature is not obvious.” *Id.* at 13 (citing *Specht v. Netscape Commc’ns. Corp.*, 306 F.3d  
 13 17, 29-30 (2d Cir. 2002) (Sotomayor, J.)).

14 ““While new commerce on the Internet has exposed courts to many new situations, it has not  
 15 fundamentally changed the principles of contract.”” *Nguyen v. Barnes & Noble, Inc.*, 763 F.3d 1171,  
 16 1175 (9th Cir. 2014). Across an ever-evolving variety of online formats – including, scrollwrap,  
 17 clickwrap, browsewrap, and sign-in-wrap – the fundamental question remains: did the website  
 18 provide the average internet user with adequate notice of the purported contract and its terms? If not,  
 19 then there is no contract. *See Savetsky v. Pre-Paid Legal Servs.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17591, at  
 20 \*7-\*9 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 12, 2015).

21 Because adequacy of notice is a fact-specific inquiry that “depends on the design and content  
 22 of the website and the agreement’s webpage,” *Nguyen*, 763 F.3d at 1177, it cannot be decided as a  
 23 matter of law if the evidence leaves that design and content uncertain or disputed. *See, e.g., Rodman*  
 24 *v. Safeway Inc.*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 115705, at 56-57 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (summary judgment  
 25 denied where evidence of earlier version of website uncertain and disputed). Even when undisputed,

26 <sup>7</sup> Contract formation is governed by state substantive law, and under California’s governmental  
 27 interest approach Illinois law has the greater interest. *See Hernandez v. Burger*, 102 Cal. App. 3d  
 28 795, 801 (Cal. Ct. Apps. 1980). Because Illinois and California law do not materially differ on  
 assent, Plaintiffs apply California law. *See also* 14 Cal. Jur. 3d Contracts §82 (2015) (mutual assent  
 required under California law); 12 Ill. Law and Prac. Contracts §25 (2015) (same under Illinois law).

1 “the conspicuousness and placement of the ‘Terms of Use’ hyperlink, other notices given to users of  
 2 the terms of use, and the website’s general design all contribute to whether a reasonably prudent user  
 3 would have [] notice of [the] agreement,” *Nguyen*, 763 F.3d at 1177, and, as always, it ““is for the  
 4 jury to decide whether the conduct in question meets the reasonable-person standard.”” *SEC v. Phan*,  
 5 500 F.3d 895, 908 (9th Cir. 2007). Any doubt must be construed in favor of the average internet user  
 6 and against enforceability. *See Berkson v. Gogo LLC*, 97 F. Supp. 3d 359, 382 (E.D.N.Y. 2015).

7                   **A.     Genuine Issues of Material Fact Exist Concerning Whether Plaintiffs  
 Assented to Facebook’s Terms**

8                   Facebook fails to meet its burden of showing that no material issue of fact exists with respect  
 9 to whether Plaintiffs assented to Facebook’s Terms. That is so because Facebook has been unable to  
 10 establish even the most basic facts of Plaintiffs’ registrations including what exactly the registration  
 11 forms looked like,<sup>8</sup> how exactly the “sign-up-flow” proceeded,<sup>9</sup> and whether or not any Plaintiffs  
 12 were ever presented with Facebook’s Terms.<sup>10</sup> Facebook’s witnesses even conceded, under oath, that  
 13

14                   [REDACTED]  
 15                   [REDACTED]<sup>11</sup> And Facebook’s witnesses also conceded that [REDACTED]

16                   [REDACTED]<sup>12</sup> In short, Facebook’s  
 17 evidence fails to directly establish that Plaintiffs assented to Facebook’s Terms.<sup>13</sup>

18                   **1.     There Is No Direct Evidence of Plaintiffs’ Assent to the Terms**

19                   There is no direct evidence – documentary or testimonial – that any plaintiff even reviewed  
 20 (much less assented to) Facebook’s terms when they registered. *First*, none of the Plaintiffs recalled  
 21 executing the reconstructed Sign-Up Pages presented by Facebook. Each Plaintiff testified that he  
 22 did not recall the layout of the Sign-Up Pages at the time he registered, each testified that he did not

23                   <sup>8</sup> *See infra* IV.A.2.

24                   <sup>9</sup> *Id.*

25                   <sup>10</sup> *See infra* IV.A.1.

26                   <sup>11</sup> *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 4 at 83:25-86:25; 100:9-19; 120:6-11; 122:21-123:7; 165:17-20; 168:5-  
 168:18; *see also* Williams Decl., Ex. 5 at 77:11-20.

27                   <sup>12</sup> *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 5 at 67:24-68:2; 68:5-7; 70:8-11; 70:14-16; 73:11-14; 73:23-74:1; *see*  
 28 *also* Williams Decl., Ex. 4 at 168:20-169:15.

29                   <sup>13</sup> It defies belief that an internet company as monolithic as Facebook would fail to maintain  
 30 records of its users’ website conduct, yet assert that unrecorded conduct as a basis to deprive those  
 31 users of their statutory privacy rights. This glaring absence of evidence not only cuts against  
 32 Facebook on the present motion, but also raises credibility concerns that must await a later stage of  
 33 the proceedings.

1 recall being presented with the Terms during the process, and Plaintiffs Licata and Pezen<sup>14</sup> testified  
 2 that they did not recall clicking the “Sign Up” or “Register Now” buttons.<sup>15</sup> **Second**, each plaintiff  
 3 testified that they conducted a thorough search and could find no e-mails or other evidence of having  
 4 ever assented.<sup>16</sup> **Third**, Facebook’s own 30(b)(6) witness conceded that [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]  
 6 [REDACTED]  
 7 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 8 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 10 [REDACTED]  
 11 [REDACTED].<sup>19</sup> Nor did Facebook’s records show that Plaintiffs reviewed, agreed to, or received  
 12 notice of Facebook’s Terms subsequent to registering their Facebook accounts.<sup>22</sup>

13 Because Facebook’s own documentary evidence lacks any record of Plaintiffs being notified  
 14 of, reading, or assenting to Facebook’s Terms, Facebook has not met its burden of establishing the  
 15 existence of a binding contract with the Plaintiffs that incorporated a valid choice-of-law clause. *See*  
 16 *Gustafson v. BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP*, 294 F.R.D. 529, 535-36 (C.D. Cal. 2013).

17<sup>14</sup> Adam Pezen testified that he has recently read the Terms, but that has no bearing on whether he  
 18 has agreed to such terms, especially as they relate to the claims alleged in the Consolidated Class  
 19 Action Complaint (Dkt. No. 40) (“Complaint”), which date back to at least 2010 when Facebook  
 20 began collecting biometric identifiers. Williams Decl., Ex. 6 at 56:22-57:20; *see also* Complaint, ¶¶  
 21 21, 28. While Patel, a non-lawyer, acknowledged (subject to a valid objection) being bound to terms  
 22 he did not read nor understand, this is precisely what cases such as *Gogo* seek to address. For assent  
 23 to exist, the website and terms of service must be designed in such a way that a reasonable person  
 24 would be drawn to understand that it is important to read them – that important rights may otherwise  
 25 be compromised. Facebook’s failure to present evidence of what was precisely in front of Patel (or  
 26 any other plaintiff or Class member) makes it impossible for a trier of the fact to make a judgment  
 27 concerning what a reasonable person would have thought and thus Facebook cannot meet its burden.  
 28 *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 7 61:18-25; 65:5-10; 66:2-8; 81:9-20; 99:16-108:24.

15 *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 6 at 8:13-21; 52:15-24; 53:16-19; 56:7-10; Ex. 8 at 51:24-52:11; 55:23-  
 16 57:5 Ex. 7 at 58:20-59:8; 60:12-24; 61:19-62:1; 108:19-110:10.

17 *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 6 at 36:3-20; Ex. 8 at 31:12-15; Ex. 7 at 47:8-50:2.

18 *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 67:24-68:7 (Pezen); 70:8-16 (Licata); 73:11-74:1 (Patel).

19 *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 60:2-21; 63:23-25; 64:10-13 [REDACTED]

20 *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 51:23-52:14 (Pezen); 69:17-25 (Licata); 72:9-15 (Patel).

21 *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 1 (Pezen); Williams Decl. Ex. 2 (Licata); Williams Decl. Ex. 3 (Patel).

22 *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 60:2-21; 63:23-25; 64:10-13; 77:11-20; Ex. 4 at 85:21-24; 86:2-25;

23 100:9-14; 120:6-11; 123:21-124:9; Ex. 9 at 56:7-57:12.

24 *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 79:1-16; 80:3-13; Ex. 4 at 168:5-169:15.

## 2. Facebook's Circumstantial Evidence Fails to Establish that Plaintiffs Assented to the Terms of Use

Because Facebook has no direct evidence demonstrating Plaintiffs assented, Facebook's argument hinges on circumstantial evidence consisting of [REDACTED]

Facebook contends that this evidence shows that Plaintiffs must have agreed to the Terms simply by virtue of the fact that they have Facebook accounts. But Facebook's tautological argument is belied by the evidence, which fails to establish even the most basic facts concerning the registration process when Plaintiffs registered their accounts.

*First*, Facebook admits that

[REDACTED]<sup>23</sup> These factors affect the size and location of text and buttons displayed during the registration process<sup>24</sup> – crucial facts necessary to establish whether there was adequate notice of the terms (*see infra* IV.B). Facebook has produced no evidence detailing which device or browser Plaintiffs used when they signed up for Facebook. And each plaintiff testified that they had access to, and could have used, many different devices and/or browsers during the registration process.<sup>25</sup> Facebook [REDACTED]

<sup>26</sup> Facebook has even conceded that,

[REDACTED] – and Facebook has failed to produce any evidence of which specific Terms configurations were presented to Plaintiffs.<sup>27</sup> Because neither Facebook nor Plaintiffs know what precise version of the registration process, if any, each plaintiff viewed, assent cannot be shown as a matter of law.

<sup>23</sup> See Williams Decl. Ex. 9 at 35:19-36:9.

[redacted]; see also *id.* at 94:17-95:5 ( [redacted] ).  
*Id.* at 65-66.

<sup>25</sup> See Williams Decl. Ex. 6 at 37:24-39:5; Ex. 8 at 34:16-35:17; Ex. 7 at 54:4-57:20.

<sup>26</sup> See Williams Decl. Ex. 8 at 37:24-39:5, Ex. 8 at 34:16-35:17, Ex. 7 at 34:16-35:17, Ex. 9 at 98:2-24; 112:16-18; 113:3-12; 117:19-118:2.

27 For example,

however, this does not represent all of the possible versions at that time, and defendant could not identify which version Plaintiffs may have seen. *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 9 at 90:16-92:4; *see also id.* at 71:24-25 [REDACTED] ( ).

1           **Second**, even Facebook's 30(b)(6) witness acknowledged that [REDACTED]  
 2 [REDACTED]  
 3 [REDACTED]. Instead, Facebook [REDACTED]  
 4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]<sup>28</sup> Those reconstructions do not satisfy the best evidence rule and  
 6 should be afforded no evidentiary significance here.<sup>29</sup> *See* Fed. Rule Evid. 1001, *et seq.*

7           The many variations across the possible Sign-Up Pages Plaintiffs potentially viewed, and the  
 8 resulting questions of fact that Facebook cannot resolve, are directly material to whether Plaintiffs  
 9 received adequate notice of the Terms. For example, [REDACTED]  
 10 [REDACTED].<sup>30</sup> [REDACTED]  
 11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]<sup>31</sup> Because what the  
 13 Plaintiffs potentially viewed remains uncertain, assent cannot be determined as a matter of law.

14           **B.     Even if Accurate and Undisputed, Facebook's Purported Facts Would  
 15           Not Warrant Judgment as Matter of Law**

16           One thing the record *does* demonstrate is that from 2005, when plaintiff Pezen signed up for  
 17 Facebook, to 2008 and 2009, when Plaintiffs Patel and Licata signed up, Facebook increasingly  
 18 obfuscated the presentation of its Terms of Service to visitors of its website.<sup>32</sup> Facebook made those  
 19

---

20           <sup>28</sup> Williams Decl. Ex. 9 at 79:25-80:3 [REDACTED]

21           ): 80:6-20      |

22           [REDACTED]      |      ): 81:24-82:1

23           [REDACTED] ); 94:5-95:10. This reconstruction process appears to have occurred at least with  
 24 respect to the 2008 and 2009 Sign Up Pages, and the record is unclear as to the creation of the 2005  
 25 version produced.

26           <sup>29</sup> *Id.*; *see also* Williams Decl. Ex. 9 at 68:7-19; 78:5-79:1. Facebook also failed to produce other  
 27 crucial documents, such as the "style sheets" that, together with the source code, determines the  
 28 layout and appearance of the registration page that Plaintiffs and other Class members would have  
 29 viewed. *Id.* at 82:2-12; 92:23-93:6; 93:21-94:3; 114:2-25; 115:10-15; 116:1-15; 117:10-18.

30           *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 10; *see also* Ex. 9 at 118:3-11.

31           *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 10; *see also* Ex. 9 at 107:12-23; 118:3-11.

32           *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 11 ( [REDACTED] ); Ex. 12 ( [REDACTED] ); Ex. 13 ( [REDACTED] ).

1 changes for the specific purpose of [REDACTED]<sup>33</sup> In other words, Facebook  
 2 intentionally sought to speed its users through the registration process at the expense of giving  
 3 meaningful notice of its Terms. As a result, Facebook did not actually present Plaintiffs with its  
 4 Terms, let alone did Plaintiffs read – or assent to – those Terms. Certainly, Plaintiffs were not on  
 5 notice that signing up for Facebook’s service would mean waiving substantive privacy rights granted  
 6 by the Illinois legislature. Facebook has failed to show that Plaintiffs assented to its Terms and, as a  
 7 result, cannot enforce its choice-of-law clause against them.

8 Facebook argues that Licata assented to Facebook’s Terms of Service “via sign-in-wrap” (a  
 9 type of browsewrap<sup>34</sup>) when he registered for Facebook’s service in November of 2009. (*Cf.* Dkt.  
 10 No. 69 at 2-3.) But Facebook has failed to show that plaintiff Licata has ever even seen Facebook’s  
 11 Terms of Service – much less manifested his assent to them.<sup>35</sup>

12 Rather, Facebook’s facts (if they had been properly established) would only show that  
 13 Facebook’s sign-up process, as it then existed, was unlikely to give Licata notice that he was  
 14 agreeing to any terms, much less that by doing so he would purportedly waive all rights conferred by  
 15 the State of Illinois. Specifically, at most, the record would demonstrate that Licata [REDACTED]  
 16 [REDACTED]  
 17 [REDACTED]  
 18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]<sup>36</sup> [REDACTED]  
 20 [REDACTED]<sup>37</sup> Facebook’s  
 21 purported method of obtaining Licata’s assent is deficient for at least two reasons.

22 First, unlike “scrollwrap” agreements, which require a user to scroll through Terms of  
 23 Service before clicking an “I agree” checkbox, sign-in-wrap agreements like the one allegedly

24<sup>33</sup> See Williams Decl. Ex. 9 at 42:1-23.

25<sup>34</sup> See *Gogo*, 97 F. Supp. 3d at 399 (“A questionable form of internet contracting has been used in  
 26 recent years – sign-in-wraps. These internet consumer contracts do not require the user to click on a  
 27 box showing acceptance of the “terms of use” in order to continue. Rather, the website is designed so  
 28 that a user is notified of the existence and applicability of the site’s “terms of use” when proceeding  
 through the website’s sign-in or login process.”).

<sup>35</sup> See Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 64:21-23.

<sup>36</sup> See Williams Decl. Ex. 5 at 55:8-13.

<sup>37</sup> *Id.*

1 presented to Licata require no additional affirmative action by the consumer, and are therefore  
 2 generally unenforceable for failure to provide adequate notice. *See Mohamed v. Uber Techs., Inc.*,  
 3 109 F. Supp. 3d 1185, 1196 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (sign-in-wrap agreements generally unenforceable);  
 4 *see also Tompkins v. 23andMe, Inc.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 88068, at \*22 (N.D. Cal. June 25, 2014)  
 5 (refusing to enforce browsewrap agreement where website “did not require customers to  
 6 acknowledge the TOS during purchase”). That is especially true when the party allegedly waiving  
 7 rights is an individual consumer (rather than a corporation or other sophisticated business entity). *See*  
 8 *Gogo*, 97 F. Supp. 3d at 396-97 (noting, in an 83-page order hailed as the most comprehensive  
 9 opinion on electronic adhesion contracts, that “[f]ollowing the ruling in *Specht*, courts generally have  
 10 enforced browsewrap terms only against knowledgeable accessors, such as corporations, not against  
 11 individuals”). Thus, Facebook’s request that this Court find that Licata (and millions of other Illinois  
 12 residents) waived his statutory rights through a contract he was never required to view, never in fact  
 13 saw, and never explicitly indicated his assent to, should be rejected.

14 Second, even if the Court were inclined to hold that sign-in-wrap agreements may *sometimes*  
 15 be enforceable, the sign-in-wrap agreement Facebook alleges it presented to Licata is particularly  
 16 problematic. In determining whether a sign-in-wrap agreement sufficiently puts the consumer on  
 17 notice, the “[c]larity and conspicuousness of [the] terms are important.” *Specht*, 306 F.3d at 30.  
 18 Here, Facebook [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]  
 20 [REDACTED]<sup>38</sup> A reasonable consumer would  
 21 not expect to be presented with Terms of Service on this page (much less that those Terms could  
 22 waive fundamental privacy rights). *See Gogo*, 97 F. Supp. 3d at 402 (Terms must “clearly draw the  
 23 consumer’s attention” if they wish to alter the rights “a reasonable consumer would understand to be  
 24 her default rights,” including the right to “bring a civil consumer protection action under the law of  
 25 her state of residence and in the courts in her state of residence.”). Indeed, the Court in *Gogo*  
 26 meticulously rejected Facebook’s primary authority, *Fteja v. Facebook, Inc.*, 841 F. Supp. 2d 829  
 27 (S.D.N.Y. 2012), explaining that “*Fteja* and lower court cases that follow its lead, mischaracterize

28 <sup>38</sup> *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 13.

1 important Supreme Court and Court of Appeals precedent regarding contracts and the reasonable  
 2 person standard that must be applied to inquiry notice of, and manifestation of assent to, the terms in  
 3 a contract of adhesion.” *Gogo*, 97 F. Supp. 3d at 403. Worse, Facebook [REDACTED]  
 4 [REDACTED] That is, Facebook claims that [REDACTED]  
 5 [REDACTED], which are intentionally  
 6 designed to command website users’ full attention. *See id.* Facebook’s choice to place its Terms  
 7 ***below*** the CAPTCHA, in text that was neither bold nor italicized nor underlined, further  
 8 demonstrates that a reasonable visitor would not notice the purported sign-in-wrap agreement.

9 The sign-in pages purportedly presented to Pezen and Patel also fail to establish assent. Even  
 10 if they were required to click on an “I agree” button, Pezen and Patel were not provided with  
 11 constructive notice of Facebook’s Terms – much less the choice-of-law clause buried within. *See*  
 12 *Harris v. comScore, Inc.*, 825 F. Supp. 2d 924, 927 (N.D. Ill. 2011) (acknowledging “the possibility  
 13 that a click-through agreement is not enforceable if its terms are not reasonably apparent to the user”  
 14 and refusing to enforce where “the location of the license agreement was not readily apparent”);  
 15 *Hines v. Overstock.com, Inc.*, 668 F. Supp. 2d 362, 367 (E.D.N.Y. 2009) (finding no reasonable  
 16 communication and acceptance where “the link to the Terms and Conditions was not prominently  
 17 displayed”). Online agreements exist on a “continuum” based on “the level of assent required.” For  
 18 example, scrollwrap agreements, which require “[s]crolling through contract terms” are more likely  
 19 to be enforced than agreements which merely contain a “button that must be affirmatively checked.”  
 20 *See* Ronald J. Mann & Travis Siebeneicher, *Just One Click: The Reality of Internet Retail  
 Contracting*, 108 Colum. L. Rev. 984, 995 (2008). By contrast, where defendants fail to track  
 21 whether a consumer clicks and actually view a hyperlinked agreement, courts do not enforce the  
 22 agreement. *See, e.g., Campbell v. Gen. Dynamics Gov’t Sys. Corp.*, 407 F.3d 546, 548-49 (1st Cir.  
 23 2005) (refusing to enforce terms where defendant, because of insufficient records, failed “to  
 24 contradict the plaintiff’s claim that he never read [them]”).

25 Here, Facebook (1) failed to display its Terms to Patel and Pezen; (2) failed to indicate that  
 26 the Terms claimed to waive substantive rights; and (3) failed to determine or track whether Pezen or  
 27 Patel in fact viewed the Terms. Thus no enforceable contract was formed between Facebook and

1 Plaintiffs Patel and Pezen. *See Specht*, 306 F.3d at 29-30 (“a consumer’s clicking on a [website]  
 2 button does not communicate assent to contractual terms if the offer did not make clear to the  
 3 consumer that clicking on the . . . button would signify assent to those terms”). Moreover, Facebook  
 4 made no effort to call attention to the Terms of Service hyperlink allegedly presented to Pezen and  
 5 Patel, whether through bolding, underlining, italicizing, or enlarging. *See id.* at 30 (“[c]larity and  
 6 conspicuousness” of Terms required). In fact, Pezen specifically testified that he typically decides  
 7 whether to review websites’ terms of service based on whether he suspects a threat to his privacy  
 8 rights,<sup>39</sup> an eminently reasonable criteria given the proliferation of terms purporting to govern online  
 9 interactions, and yet one Facebook deliberately evades. *See also Gogo*, 97 F. Supp. 3d at 382 (“the  
 10 burden [is] on the offeror to impress upon the offeree . . . the importance of the details of the binding  
 11 contract being entered into. . . . [B]urden [] include[s] the duty to explain the relevance of the critical  
 12 terms governing the offeree’s substantive rights”).

13 Even if the Court were to find constructive notice of the hyperlink to Facebook’s Terms,  
 14 Pezen and Patel still did not have notice of the choice-of-law clause inconspicuously buried within  
 15 those Terms. While many sections of the Terms were emphasized in all-caps or bold font, Facebook  
 16 buried the choice-of-law clause deep within the Terms, in smaller, unbolted, un-italicized text.<sup>40</sup>  
 17 Facebook’s stealth drafting renders that clause unenforceable. *See Gogo*, 97 F. Supp. 3d at 402.

18 **V. CONCLUSION**

19 For the foregoing reasons, summary judgment should be denied.

20 DATED: February 24, 2016

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s/ Shawn A. Williams  
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27  
 28 <sup>39</sup> *See* Williams Decl., Ex. 6 at 54:2-20.

<sup>40</sup> *See* Williams Decl. Ex. 4 at 115:1-14; 117:9-119:23.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on February 24, 2016, I authorized the electronic filing of the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the attached Electronic Mail Notice List, and I hereby certify that I caused to be mailed the foregoing document or paper via the United States Postal Service to the non-CM/ECF participants indicated on the attached Manual Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 24, 2016.

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